

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending in the above-identified application, wherein Claims 1, 10, 11, 16 and 19 are independent claims. It is gratefully acknowledged that the Examiner has allowed Claims 1-10 and 16-18. However, the Examiner has rejected Claims 11-13 and 19-22. Claims 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Haberkern et al.* (US Pat. No. 4,633,323) in view of *Akai* (US Pat. Public. No. 2004/0204194) and further in view of *Watanabe* (US Pat. No. 6,872,088). Claims 19-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Haberkern* in view of *Akai* and further in view of *Youn* (US Pat. No. 6,697,495). Additionally, the Examiner has objected to Claims 14-15 as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but states that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The Examiner has objected to certain disclosure in the specification on grounds of certain informalities, but has set forth recommendations to overcome the objections. In order to expedite prosecution, the Examiner's recommendations for overcoming the objections to the specification and abstract have been made as set forth above herein. The Examiner has also objected to Claims 1-22 because of these very same informalities. Similarly, in order to expedite prosecution, the Examiner's recommendations to place Claims 1-22 in condition for allowance have been made. As such, the specification, abstract and claims have been amended as set forth above to comply with the Examiner's recommendations for overcoming the informal objections to same.

Regarding the rejection of Claims 11-13 under 35 USC § 103(a), it is respectfully submitted that *Watanabe* does not qualify as a prior art reference on grounds that its effective filing date does not precede the applicants' date of

invention. The present application was filed in the US Patent and Trademark Office on November 12, 2003, *Watanabe's* earliest US filing date of November 25, 2003 does not precede the applicants' US filing date of November 12, 2003. Consequently, *Watanabe* cannot be used to support the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of Claims 11-13. In addition, the present application claims priority to Korean applications filed at least as early as November 7, 2002. For purpose of disqualifying *Watanabe*, annexed herewith are certified English translations of the applications filed in the Korean Intellectual Property Office on November 12, 2002 and assigned Serial No. 2002-70005, as well as on November 7, 2003 and assigned Serial No. 2003-78750.

Consequently, independent Claim 11 is believed to be in condition for allowance over the combination of *Haberkern* and *Akai*, and in particular, since *Watanabe* does not qualify as a prior art reference. While not conceding the patentability of dependent Claims 11-15, per se, Claims 11-15 are believed to be patentable over the combination of *Haberkern* and *Akai*, based on their respective dependency from independent Claim 11, which is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 19-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Haberkern* in view of *Akai* and further in view of *Youn*. Independent Claim 19 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter from Claim 16 to further distinguish over this combination of references. In particular the recitation "a resonance blocker located between the side speakers to prevent the formation of empty space between the side speakers and thereby prevent sound emitted from the side speakers from resonating with each other" has been added to Claim 19. Neither *Haberkern* nor the combination of *Haberkern* and *Akai* discloses or teach each and every element as set forth in amended independent Claim 19. Given that amended independent Claim 19 contains the allowable subject matter of CLaim

16, as set forth above, it is believed to be in condition for allowance. Therefore, while not conceding the patentability of dependent Claims 20-22, *per se*, Claims 20-22 are similarly believed to be in condition for allowance based on their respective dependency from amended independent Claim 19.

The application containing Claims 1-22, is believed to be in condition for allowance. Thus, applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection of Claims 11-13 and 19-22, and objection of Claims 14 and 15 as well as reconsideration and allowance of the application.

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference or personal interview would facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, the Examiner may contact Applicants' attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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[PATENT CLAIMS]

1. A portable terminal including a phone body having a plurality of keys and a microphone, which are disposed on an upper surface of the phone body, a
5 folder having a main speaker and a main LCD, which are disposed on a lower surface of the folder, and a hinge unit including a pair of side hinge arms and a center hinge arm, which enable the folder to be rotated to go away from or come towards the phone body, the side hinge arms being opposed to each other at one side of the phone body, the center hinge arm being disposed between the side
10 hinge arms, comprising:

a pair of side speakers provided at the side hinge arms, respectively, the side speakers being oriented in opposite directions along a hinge axis of the portable terminal, so that the side speakers produce sound in opposite directions along the hinge axis; and

15 speaker covers arranged along the hinge axis and facing a pair of stereo speaker devices.

2. The portable terminal as claimed in claim 1, wherein the center hinge arm is formed integrally with the folder and has a camera lens disposed on a
20 surface connected to an upper surface of the folder.

3. The portable terminal as claimed in claim 1, wherein each of the speaker covers has a convex shape to surround the side speaker and the side hinge arm.

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4. The portable terminal as claimed in claim 1, wherein the center hinge arm is formed integrally with the folder and has a center key disposed on a surface connected to a lower surface of the folder.

30 5. The portable terminal as claimed in claim 1, wherein the side hinge

arms have grooves formed on upper surfaces of the side hinge arms, respectively, so that corners of a shoulder of the folder can be seated in the grooves when the folder has been closed on the phone body.

- 5 6. The portable terminal as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a sub LCD disposed on the upper surface of the folder.

7. A portable terminal comprising:
a phone body having a pair of side hinge arms laterally protruding at one
10 side of the phone body;
a folder having a center hinge arm disposed between the side hinge arms;
a pair of side speakers provided at the side hinge arms and oriented in
opposite directions along a hinge axis of the portable terminal; and
speaker covers arranged along the hinge axis and facing the speakers,
15 respectively.